## "Women Are Sure of Victory," Says Mrs. Catt

BY EDWARD MARSHALL. NEW YORK, June 27, 1919. ATI - Rati - Rati-Rati -Rati-Ratify!"

If you hear some sweet girl graduate or some sober-looking matron exclaiming this at your state capital in an enthusiastic monotone, don't think her mad: don't think her a striker using words condemnatory of non-unionists; don't think she is referring to some other lady's hair.

Upon the contrary, she will be declaiming rhythmically her demand for the confirmation by the legislature of the federal constitutional amendment providing for national woman's suffrage.

These are great days for the women; probably they are great days for the world. At any rate they mean, with almost absolute certainty, that millions of new voters, practically free from the unpleasant influences which disagreeably have affected American politics since days to which the memory of living man reacheth not, will be thrust into the political arena-and probably soon enough for participation in the next presiden. tial election.

It will mean that an immense impulse will have been made potent toward the perfection and intensification of public education.

It will mean that cleanliness will come to cities, that food prices will be forced down, that food quality will be forced up, that food purity (already greater in America probably than anywhere else in all the world) will be augmented, that a dozen other fundamental questions will be taken up as special interests of womankind and inevitably carried through to a successful issue.

In other words, the entrance of women into American political life will not be revolutionary, but will be evolutionary-evolutionary upward.

When the writer went to see Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National Woman Suffrage Association, as well as president of the International Suffrage Alliance, she sat jubilant in very handsome New York offices.

"I believe," said she, "that the triumph of the nation's womanhood, ful nation, a nation for the first time original American revolutionists.

"Taxation without representation is tyranny!

"And to that other, no less imporerned.

really rises to the realization of fore the nation—questions greater will reveal. But they are (again I tween the principal parties. Abraham Lincoln's inspired, immortal than any that have been before it say it) in the main constructive words: 'Ours is a government of the since the civil war. These are worthy thinkers. Women will not be like cussions of 'mass tendencies.'

"There is no proper record of the franchised by the adoption of the have the right to claim especial in- man expect it! amendment, but, speaking roughly, terest. This will be one issue in the after its acceptance there will be next presidential campaign. To shut lot which did not include the votes of eighteen million oman voters in the out all American womanhood which women can represent the will of the

not even a possible change for the worse in any one of them.

"If the federal amendment had been submitted to the states by the Sixtyfifth Congress," Mrs. Catt continued, "and it lacked but one vote in that almost, if not quite, of oppression. Senate, it would have been ratified And it would be an act which the without delay. We knew. We have been politically organized for a long time, with sources of information minutely accurate about every member of every state legislature in the Union. Then forty-two legislatures were in session and thirty-six would have acted favorably.

\* \* \* \* "But the Sixty-fifth Congress did not act, and when the Sixty-sixth did most of the state legislatures were not in session. As things stood it mark; they will have a voice in Great looked, upon the surface, as if we would have to wait until 1921 before ions and colonies except South Africa; we could secure ratification, for only they will have a voice in the greater ten legislatures regularly meet in part of Belgium; it may be that they 1920. The situation looked depressing for us. But we were not depressed. If the woman suffragists of the United States had been subject to depression they would have abandoned prespects, I am afraid. their struggle long ago. Of their political competence there is no better proof than their persistence, their optimism in the face of discouraging

circumstances, their resourcefulness. "The strength of the impulse to ratify was proved by the quick ratification in Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and other states, and by the call issued by various governors, including Gov. Smith of New York, for once making the amendment a part me into controversial subjects. The Surely the women of the United States special sessions for the purpose of at of the nation's fundamental law. America wants woman's suffrage and

An Interview With President of National Woman's Suffrage Associa- chise on every square foot of American soil. tion-Women as a Power Behind the Enforcement of All Laws Tending Toward Progress.



President of the National Woman Suffrage Association and the International Suffrage Alliance.

(Phote by Burdon Stage.)

islatures, and that, therefore, it is prosperity. only fair reparation for the many living up to the declaration of the to the call for extra sessions to insure quick ratification.

"There are many reasons why the women wish no serious delay and why many men, as well, I think, are anxtant: 'Governments derive their full ious that the people's will shall be expower from the consent of the gov- pressed as quickly as may be by the "Now, for the first time, America sponsibility. Great questions are beadmission of the women to full rementally responsible population.

> similar expressions upon other questions the replies to which will be epoch-making in their consequences. would be in the circumstances an act future would be certain to resent.

> \* \* \* \* "I cannot think-I never have been able to think-that in dealing with such questions the United States would be willing to stand unique and blameworthy in half democracy among the nations of the world. In dealing with them women will have a voice in Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Jugoslovakia, Sweden, Norway, Holland and Den-Britain and all the British dominwill have a voice in France, where the measure has gone through the

> 'In such circumstances would it be America to lag behind? On the contrary, such a situation would constitute one of the most remarkable anomalies in the nation's history."

> The writer asked Mrs. Catt how she thinks the women of America, if the question were to be decided by they alone, would vote upon the league of nations

"No," said she, "don't try to draw point is not that the women of and of the world shoull have a voice America will vote solidly on any as to determining the nature of that question. They will not. That is basis, surely they should be held to

foundation have helped to pay the clean minds, that of those who wish of the French, and vice versa. taxes which have supported the leg- for the whole world sanity, peace and

"The important point is that no balway of permanent tranquillity

"Speaking generally, women hate war and love peace. As a matter of fact, after every war the beliggerence Great wars come once, not twice, in a generation. The trouble is that those educated to war's horrors die off. Their successors are without appreciation; they become complacent, overconfident, sometimes (as in Germany) arrogant, willing to take chances. Then the world suffers. When woman suffrage becomes unlversal throughout the world there will be less chance of this, for women, after all, are the chief sufferers

"No one expects perfect satisfaction with the treaty as it will be adopted of the sort which is born of an effort to reconcile so many and such widely senate and is pending in the cham- conflicting interests is certain to be ber of deputies-not with the best of marked by the effects of many compromises, and in every compromise may lurk some ground for future disfitting for the United States of free agreements necessitating readjustments.

"But readjustments are the footsteps of human progress; the point is that we must find a starting point for the work of future years, a basis upon which to build an international fabric which will tend toward progress in which justice will be universally recognized as the great fundamental. "Our argument in favor of these where the safety of the thing comes strict accountability for such re"We shall demand and secure the Copyright, 1919, by the Edward Marshall System of the frame of th

be required to work in this great nor permitted to shirk.

When the suffrage amendment has Sometimes I wonder if there is not really a larger body of women who polling places in schoolhouses and are politically competent than there is churches, and shall see to it that our of men.

absolutely nothing beyond party (as tion. perhaps is natural; I do not criticise studied politics have regarded the whole subject in rather a broader nation, will be, primarily: light; perhaps they have been a little more than men inclined to consider legislation with regard to the good or evil effect which it would have upon the welfare of the nation; they have been, perhaps, a little less than men swayed by the claims of parties or stimulate foreign-born residents tothe claims of individual politicians.

"I have no thought that women, speaking generally, will regard poli- the nation has discovered that loyalty tics from a non-partisan viewpoint. to American ideals is not always at-Some believe that they will align themselves, generally, if they are married, as their husbands have aligned themselves. Others maintain that inherited tendencies will go further in influencing political action even than those of matrimonial association. Unquestionably, political inheritance will be strong among women; many will be republicans or democrats because belief in one party or the other burns in their blood, as ha- termination with regard to future of the nation from the days of its be that of constructivists, that of tred for Germany burns in the blood

\* \* \* \* "No one could do more than guess "But there will be many thousands years of taxation without representa- as to how American men or women of American women among those who now absolutely certain, will make of tion that the legislatures should im- will vote upon any great and vital will be newly enfranchised who will the United States a new and wonder- pose upon their states the compara- topic. That is one of the safeguards vote independently, who will weigh knew, without a ballot, the prefer- vote, and these will reinforce the inupon the subject of the league of na- the improvement of the aims and tions, for women are strong and in- methods of all parties than in break-

"I hate positive statements in dispeople, by the people and for the peo- of the careful judgment of the whole sheep, all voting alike. And "-Mrs. America has one mass tendency only-Catt smiled) "I assure you especially a mass tendency toward righteous-"For example, there is the league that American women with the fran- ness and progress—she will be better number of women which will be en- of nations issue, in which women chise will not be like lambs. Let no off than otherwise. But this I will say without hesitation: Women will not throw their influence in favor of graft, incompetence or injustice, for political purposes, knowingly.

was without the franchise at the whole American people, and that if but I do say that it will take many ation.

"In future the sexes will be upon time of the passage of the amend- the plan of the league of nations is years of political training—more, I topic. For the last year it has been "In future the sexes will be upon the by the Senate from the privi- not finally adopted or rejected by the hope, that will be available in the at work on a codification of existing political equality. The result will be a work on a codincation of existing an absolute change for the better in that which will vitally affect the many details of our government and that which will vitally affect the many details of our government and that which will time to come, and from unworthy political leadership, or even, in which this study is particularly without investigation, follow leadership which, while it may have good intentions, is mistaken.

> "I have worked unceasingly for of all human beings is at a low ebb. many years, and I think events have proved intelligently, to secure the vote for women. Now we shall work, I hope, as intelligently to secure for women the right sort of leadership and education in politics. We shall try to see to it that the women in America shall be those voters who, in all the world, are best informed with regard to those affairs and questions which, to any extent whatsoever, are to be influenced by their votes.

> "As soon as the amendment actually has been ratified the National American Association, which has won all the victories, will be merged in the already existent League of Womby the peace conference; a document en Voters, and the first aim of the Leageu of Women Voters will be to secure in every detail of our government such changes as may tend to elevate our whole political system."

> > "Will not that tend toward the establishment of a woman's party?"

> > "No, I think not. I cannot conceive such a thing. But it will tend toward the accomplishment of certain things through the media of the existing parties.

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shall accomplish, compulsory education in every state of the United States. "We shall compel general improve-

ment in American education. "We shall bring about the raising

of the school age to sixteen years throughout the nation.

"Our first effort in this latter direction will be for the elimination of those emblems, which, badges of our national illiteracy, now identify the ballots which our voters use at the field. They neither should be slighted polls. We want no nation in which sign writing is necessary on election ballots. We want a nation in which been ratified, as I have no doubt it each voter comprehends an English will be, the men will be astonished by form him of the nature and significance of the ballot which he casts.

"We shall demand and assure more election days in general are so man-"Don't mistake me, for I am not aged that people will not be kept claiming feminine superiority. My away from polling places by the mere thought is that while men have been feeling that to vote inevitably must considering politics purely along par- be a disagreeable experience. This, of ty lines, many of them considering itself, will do much to lessen corrup-

"The slogan of American womanthe party system), women who have hood when, as a whole, it casts its first vote universally throughout the

"'AN ELECTORATE SPEAKS ENGLISH, WHICH READS ITS OWN BALLOTS, WHICH HON-ORS ONE FLAG!

\* \* \* \*

"We have done what we could to ward naturalization during the period of the war; also during the war tendant upon naturalization. There must be something outside of official documents behind our national patriotism. It is that something which the woman voters of America hope that they may find the way of supplying.

"At present we have actually in service eight committees which are doing nothing except carefully studying the situation, so that we may have a basis on which to reach dework. We have not been blind or idle during the years preceding our great victory. We shall know what to do with it. When we actually get the vote I, personally, am certain that we shall use it with intelligence and for the public good.

"We shall do no sensational things: tively infinitesimal expense necessary of our national existence. If we and study issues and men before they we shall not rush sentimentally to any special standards. Sanely, conence of the nation upon such great creasingly large number of American servatively, the women of America and vital topics we could do away men who have achieved a similar will work toward the improvement of with balloting. Certainly opinion is mental independence. This will tend our national conditions and our individed among women as among men probably rather in the direction of ternational relationships and useful-

> "Women will be interested in social problems and will force them far more deeply into political consideration than they have been in the past. One of our principal efforts now tends, and in future more strongly will tend, toward the standardisation of state legislation, and this means better and more uniform marriage and divorce laws.

"A committee appointed by the Mational Bar Association and composed "I don't say that many men do, entirely of woman lawyers is taking a great interest in this particular will follow blindly, without inquiry, tion here in this office. Other topics interested ahe property rights, wage interested are property rights, wage rights, custody of children, business permitted to enter business independently of their husbands) and the age of consent.

"And we are making extraordinary efforts to educate the woman voter. When the women of New York state first got the vote we established schools for their education in the technicality of the process, reaching 100,000 women in the city of New York alone.

"This education of voters will be carried on by informed women throughout the nation, but similar campaigns should be conducted by men. As a matter of fact, the education of the voter should be done by the government. We women very strongly advocate the establishment of schools of citizenship. We believe that the test which finally passes an applicant for naturalization should be a diploma from such a school-a certificate without which naturaliza. tion would be impossible.

"I do not mean to indicate that organized woman voters plan to do all these things alone. I am merely try. ing to indicate that the enfranchisement of women will put into operation in the United States certain defi-"We shall set out to accomplish, and nitely and efficiently organized instruments for the improvement of our national life. The work will be done by men and women in co-operation with each other, with existing organizations, political, educational and social. The enfranchisement of women will stimulate such useful co-operation."